

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING AND FEEDING
PRINTING PLATES IN AN IMAGING SYSTEM

Abstract Of The Disclosure

5 The present invention provides an apparatus and method
for supporting and feeding printing plates in an imaging
system. The apparatus comprises a vacuum system for
picking up an edge of a top printing plate from a stack of
printing plates, and a peeling system including a pair of
rotatable belts, a plurality of plate feed beams attached
10 to, and extending between, the pair of rotatable belts, and
a drive system for rotating the pair of rotatable belts to
displace the plurality of plate feed beams between the top
printing plate and an underlying printing plate in the
stack of printing plates, thereby peeling the top printing
15 plate from the stack of printing plates.